

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, ETRA, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION: THIRD SESSION
OF JOINT COMMITTEE, POST-MEETING TOUR

REF: STATE 20477 MOSCOW 12003

DEPT PASS DOT FOR ALEN TPI-42

1. SCIOFF INFORMED 0900 AUGUST 26 BARINOV, SCST, OF DECISION OF
AMERICAN DELEGATION TO DROP "THIRD CITY" FROM POST-MEETING TOUR.
SCIOFF EXPLAINED THAT REASONS INCLUDED:

A) FACT THAT BINDER AND RAMUNDO WOULD BE UNABLE TO GO, AS HAD
ALREADY BEEN EXPLAINED TO SOVIETS,

B) NON-PARTICIPATION OF MR. KAISER,

C) EXTREMELY BUSY SCHEDULES OF OTHER USDELS,

D) THAT EMB REP, PROBABLY DR. LOEBNER, WOULD LOKELY HAVE TIME
FOR ONLY TWO CITIES,

E) FACT THAT KEEPING GROUP TOGETHER MAKES PLANNING EASIER FOR
SOVIETS (A PLAY-BACK OF AN OLD SCST THEME.)

2. BARINOV REPLIED THAT SUCH DECISION UNFORTUNATE SINCE TALLINN
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MOST INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE LOCALE ON TOUR AND USDEL WOULD

MEET THERE WITH IMPORTANT OFFICIALS, FROM BOTH THE REPUBLIC AND THE MINISTRIES INVOLVED.

3. METAL'NIKOV SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED SCIOFF WITH "KIND REQUEST" THAT USDEL RECONSIDER THIS DECISION. METAL'NIKOV SAID THAT SUCH A DECISION, WHICH WOULD CAUSE "UNSPEAKABLE DIFFICULTIES," COULD HARDLY HELP AFFECTING SPIRIT OF COOPERATION DURING JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. METAL'NIKOV SAID THAT ALEKSENKO, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SCST, HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE PREPARATIONS, ALONG WITH OTHER IMPORTANT PEOPLE. METAL'NIKOV ASKED SCIOFF TO IMAGINE US REACTION IF SOVIETS CANCELLED OUT OF AN ELABORATELY AND CAREFULLY-PLANNED VISIT IN THE US AT THE LAST MINUTE.

3. SCIOFF REPEATED FOR METAL'NIKOV REASONING OF PARA 1, AND NOTED THAT TOUR DELEGATION IS ALREADY SMALLER THAN MAKE-UP OF USDEL TO COMMITTEE MEETING (BARINOV EARLIER COMMENTED ON SMALL SIZE OF USDEL), AND THAT SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS HAVE TO LEAVE AT THE END OF SECOND CITY. SCIOFF POINTED OUT THAT BY TIME THIRD CITY COMES UP ON SCHEDULE, DELEGATION WHITTLED DOWN BY OTHER COMMITMENTS TO ONLY A FEW PEOPLE.

4. EMBASSY SEES TWO POSSIBILITIES:

A. CONFIRM DROPPING OF TALLINN OR ANY OTHER THIRD CITY, FROM TOUR. ALTHOUGH NON-RECOGNITION QUESTION THEREUPON AVOIDED, SOVIETS WOULD HAVE READY EXCUSE (AND PERHAPS FOR THEM A REAL REASON) FOR ANY UNCOOPERATIVE OR OBSTRUCTIONIST STANCES AT 3RD SESSION OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

B. CONTINUE WITH TOUR, BUT IMPRESS UPON SOVIETS THAT REDUCED OFFICIAL LEVEL OF DELEGATION PROCLUDES THEIR MEETING WITH HIGH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THUS SMALLER GROUP WOULD BE PLEASED TO VISIT THIRD CITY TO VIEW FACILITIES AND MEET WITH SUBSTANTIVE COUNTERPARTS. SUCH A US RESPONSE WOULD SEEM CONSISTENT WITH RECENT POLICY ON ESTONIA, AND OFFICIAL NATURE OF PARTY MIGHT BE REDUCED FURTHER IF STATE DEPT AND/OR EMBASSY REP DEPARTED WITH BINDER AND RAMUNDO.

5. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD AND PROMISED NOTHING OTHER THAN FINAL US DECISION. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

STOESSEL

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